

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 23, 1997 LB 118

but probably not enough to stand and seriously object to the general principle behind the bill. But this one point, I think, is a key point, and that is that this isn't just free money out there. This is money to be used on the edge for school improvement. It's not just money that will supplement other spending that should go on. If a computer is needed, maybe a school district ought to buy that computer out of their general levy. If there is a rationale that it's part of an innovative school improvement plan and they need that computer, they at least ought to have that plan in front of the board that is making the decision. So, with that, I would urge you to support this amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Janssen, to speak to the Withem amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Senator Withem, I'm not eliminating a plan for them. They still have to, on the last sentence, in the underscored portion of the bill, they still have to be required to explain how the grant will be used. You can call that a strategic plan if you want to. I mean what is a strategic plan? Follows the criteria. What is a strategic improvement plan? The planning process involves a self-study and input from teachers, students, administrators, community members. The SSIP contains a mission statement, goals and objectives. And the time line of activities which address the objectives, a method of evaluating the district process is met...is meeting SSIP objectives, is also part of a good plan. You think a school with 56 kids in it, 3 teachers and parents coming to the school don't know what they need in that school, what their objectives are? That would be part of the last sentence in the underscored portion of the bill. That, to me, they know what they need in these small schools, the SSIP doesn't. They will tell them this is what we want to do, this is what we want to do with this \$5,000. I can't understand why that is so hard to understand. These small schools know what they need. They know what they need, and they hate to see the money wasted in the fashion which it has been. So as far as I'm concerned they know what their plan is. They can forward that plan to the SSIP and let them be the judge of it. They don't want to give them the \$5,000 grant, so let it be. Don't give it to them then. But I think the bill is fine